Early Music Series

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(A.T.T.B.)

QUI BELLES AMOURS A

JOSQUIN DES PREZ
(*c.* 1440 - 1521)

Edited by
WILLIAM PRIZER

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

EDITORIAL NOTE

Qui belles amours a, by Josquin des Prez (*ca.* 1440-1521), is presented here after Vienna, Oesterreichische National-bibliothek, MS mus. 18810, a set of four part-books that are the only source of the chanson. The work is included there with the text incipit, 'Qui belles amours' only; the complete text and melody appear in the monophonic *chansonnier*, Paris, Bibliothèque nationale, MS fonds fr. 12744. The text has been added to the present edition from Gaston Paris's *Chansons du xv^e^ siècle* (Paris, 1875), a modern edition of MS 12744. Only one change has been made in the text: "et" in line six of the poem has been changed to "en." Editorial accidentals are printed small, and ligatures are indicated by square brackets.

Only one error is recorded in the Vienna MS: bar 17 in the *altus* begins with an extra crotchet rest that has been deleted here.

Text has been added to all voices; in the process it was necessary to add syllables to the second notes of three ligatures in the *bassus* (bars 12, 21, and 47). All voices need not, however, be sung. The following combinations are some of the other possibilities: 1) the *superius* or tenor may be sung and the other voices played on melody instruments; 2) the *superius* or tenor may be sung and the other voices played on a chordal instrument (lute or keyboard); 3) both the *superius* and tenor may be sung and the other voices played on instruments; 4) all four voices may be played on soft or loud melody instruments; 5) all four voices may be played on a chordal instrument. For other possibilities and suggested instruments, see H. M. Brown, 'On the Performance of 15th-Century Chansons', *Early Music* I (1973): 3-10.

William Prizer

Additional Text:

Les quatre fers qu'il a
Font la pouldre menue;
La dame du chasteau
Est aux creneaux venue:
"Qui est ce garson la
Qui point ne me salue?"
Qui belles amours a
Souvent s'y les remue.

"Tel garson que je suis,
Ailleurs vous ay tenue,
Et dessus vostre lit
Ay laissé ma sancture
Et a vostre chevet
Mon espée esmoulue."
Qui belles amours a
Souvent s'y les remue.

Translation

A man who loves fair ladies
Will often find new loves.
The other day as I was riding
On the high road to Paris
Upon my black horse
Who prances through the streets.
A man who loves fair ladies
Will often find new loves.

His four shoes
Kicked up the dust.
The lady of the castle
Came to the window:
"Who is that rogue
Who does not even greet me?"
A man who loves fair ladies
Will often find new loves.

"Such a rogue as I may be,
I have held you in my arms
And have hung my belt
Above your bed
And my sharp-pointed sword
At your bedside."
A man who loves fair ladies
Will often find new loves.

Translation by Joshua Rifkin
Courtesy of Nonesuch Records
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RANGES: SUPERIUS

A.

ALTUS

T.1

Qui

TENOR

T.2

BASSUS

B.

Qui bel - les a-mours a,

4

Qui bel - les a-mours

bel - les a - mours a,

a - -

a - - -

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8

a Sou - vent, sou - vent, sou - vent,

- mours a Sou - vent, sou - vent, sou -

Qui bel - les a - mours a Sou -

- - - - - - - mours a Sou - vent,

12

sou - vent, sou - vent s'y les re - mu -

- vent, sou - vent, sou - vent s'y les re - mu -

- vent, sou - vent, sou - vent, sou - vent s'y les re -

sou - vent, sou - vent s'y les re - mu - e,

16

- e, sou - vent s'y les re - mu - - - - e.

- - - - - e, sou - vent s'y les re - mu - - - - -

- mu - e, sou - vent s'y les re - mu - e.

sou - vent s'y les re - mu - - - e. L'au - trier quant_

20

L'au - trier quant che - vau - choy - - - - e A

- - - - - - - - - - e. L'au - trier quant che - vau - - - -

— L'au - trier quant che - vau -

— che - vau - choy - e A Pa - ris la grant ru - - - - -

24

Pa - - - - ris la grant ru - e

- - choy - - - e A Pa - ris — la — grant ru - - - - -

- choy - e A Pa - ris la grant ru -

- e Sur

28

Sur mon che - val mo - reau _____

- e _____ Sur mon che - val mo - reau _____

- e Sur mon che - val mo -

mon che - val — mo - - - - reau Qui sou - vent sault en _____

32

Qui sou - vent sault en ru - e.

_____ Qui _____ sou - vent sault en ru - - - - -

- reau _____ Qui sou - - - vent

ru - - - - e.

36

- - - - e. Qui bel - les a - mours

sault en ru - e. _____

Qui bel - les a - mours a, _____

40

Qui bel - les a - mours a _____

a, _____ a - - mours _____

Qui

_____ a - - - - - -

44

Sou - vent, sou-vent, sou-vent, sou -

a Sou - vent, sou - vent, sou - vent,

bel - les a - mours a Sou - vent, sou - vent,

- mours a Sou - vent, sou - vent,

48

- vent, sou-vent s'y les re - mu - - - - - e, sou -

sou - vent, sou-vent s'y les re - mu - - - - - e,

sou - vent, sou - vent, sou - vent s'y les re - mu - e,

sou - vent s'y les re - mu - e, sou - vent s'y

52

- vent s'y les re - mu - - - e.

sou - vent s'y les re - mu - - - - e.

sou - vent s'y les re - mu - e.

les re - mu - - e, re - mu - - - e.

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